

# A REPRESENTATION

of the present Affairs and Interests of the most considerable parts of

## E U R O P E,

*more especially of those of the*

# NETHERLANDS:

As they now stand, in the beginning of the year 1677.

*Laid open in a Letter from Holland.*

By a Lover of Truth and Peace.



Anno Dom. 167 $\frac{6}{7}$ .



R,



Upon some serious Considerations lately had by us both touching the great Confusions and Calamities of sundry parts of *Europe*, & particularly of *the Netherlands*, you were pleased to put such a value upon my judgement (beyond it's deserts) as to ask my opinion of the source & progress of those Evills, together with my Advice concerning such Remedies as might restore the Lands to their former rest, and the Inhabitants to their ancient ~~prosperity~~ <sup>prosperity</sup> and safety.

S<sup>r</sup>, This was not the work of One day, nor is it now possible in one Letter to comprehend so ample a Relation, or discussion of those things wherein so many, so grand, and so various circumstances occur; Neither have I now the leisure to reduce them into such a distinct Method as you might expect. But according to the severall discourses I daily am accosted with, & the observations I have made of persons and passages, I shall give you a general view of our Maladies; the idea whereof may haply somewhat move your compassion, though it cannot have so great an influence upon the affections of your Countreymen, as upon those on this side the water, who have born and are yet likely to bear the heat and burden of a sad and dolefull day: And as for an *Esculapius* to heal these dreadfull wounds, something we shall assay, though rather wish than hope for such an Expedient; unless you in *England*, sensible, that when your Neighbours houses are on fire, apprehending your own cannot long escape, shall be moved to add a helping hand ere it be too late.

Now, S<sup>r</sup>, for the better answering of your expectation, ere I give you my own Observations, I judge it not amiss to propose to you the severall sentiments of the 2. great Heads of the present contending parties: and sith Our ears are daily filled with the noise of their loud boastings, high pretences and mutuall calumniation, I take the Freedom to exercise your patience with an account

4  
count of their own Rhodomantado's; which I cannot better do than by personating One of each Nation.

I shall first introduce the *Frenchman* : who would persuade us to a belief that *his King* is the onely qualified Prince of Christendom to become *Emperour* , not onely of *Europe* , but of the world. And thus you may hear him Flourishing over the encomiums of his King , Countrey and Cause.

„ In the first place (*saieth the Monsieur*) I say , That my Sovereign Lord and Master , *His most Christian Majestie* is every way „ qualified for the Sovereign Imperial Dignity and Charge : I „ shall begin with his *Person* , which no man can deny to be the „ most graceful of all the Princes on earth : his mind yet more „ richly adorned with all the graces and transcendent Excellencies „ and Endowments which may become a Prince. Had he lived „ in some days, no doubt , he would have been reckoned a „ mongst the Gods. He came into the world with a wonder , „ therefore was he named *Dieu done*, *Gods gift* : and being so miraculously given beyond all expectation , 't is a sign he came to do „ some grand work ; he being prophesied of by many , as if he „ were to begin or set up the Fifth Monarchy : and to me this „ seems evident : for when you shall well weigh what great and „ glorious things he hath don , in raising the Monarchy of *France* „ to that degree of height as hath never yet hitherto been known , „ adding thereto so many great Conquests , and that in very few „ years , to the astonishment of all the Princes in *Europe* , and the „ admiration of the *Great Turk* , who , you find , sends an Ambassadour to treat his *Christian Majestie* with the Title of *Emperour* , which never formerly was given to any *King of France* „ since *Charle Main's* time ; and when you shall truly consider „ the great power of *my King* at Land and Sea , certainly you „ must yield him to be the most potent of all the Princes of Christendom : He is able to bring two hundred thousand men to „ fight , and yet not take three men out of a Parish : for 'tis undeniable , that in *France* alone and it's limits , leaving out *Lorraine* , *Burgundy* , *French County* and *Alsatia* , he hath within the

*French*



„ *French Monarchy*, one hundred and thirty three thousand Pa-  
 „ rishes. But, before I speak of his Riches and vast Dominions,  
 „ I ought to mention something of the vertues of his mind, which  
 „ are so numerous, that certainly never have so many met toge-  
 „ ther in any Prince in our modern times: he is all *bon Air* and  
 „ courteous beyond expression: and yet in labours, vigilan-  
 „ cie, and hazards, who ever more sedulous? And what Prince  
 „ ever out-did him in distributions of justice and rewards to the  
 „ meritorious? What encouragements doth he give to the Ver-  
 „ tuoso's? What pensions are given to the widows and orphans  
 „ of the brave *English* and other Nations that have serv'd him well?  
 „ Nor can his own Subjects complain of missing their reward  
 „ when they deserve it. And this his glorious Example hath be-  
 „ gotten an imitation in his Subjects: What numbers of brave  
 „ Generalls and skilfull Officers is *France* plentifully furnished  
 „ with? What a disciplined Army is that of the French? none in  
 „ in the world to be compared to them. And if you take notice  
 „ of the Riches of *my King* in the Number of his Subjects, then  
 „ you will grant, he exceeds all *Europe*.

„ *Charle Magne* was of opinion that *France*, for it's situation,  
 „ was the most convenient and commodious Countrey of all  
 „ *Europe* for making the Residential seat for the *Emperour*: and  
 „ *Charle le Magne* had made it so, had not these two considera-  
 „ tions overswayed, viz. (1.) That the *German* Princes and their  
 „ Countreys might so have taken the opportunity of returning  
 „ back to their *Heathenism*, to which they were very inclining. (2)  
 „ Sith at the time of his disposall of his possessions amongst his Sons,  
 „ *France* (now so called) was under severall Princes and Poten-  
 „ tates, which *Charle Magne* in justice could not turn out of  
 „ their lawfull rights, as *Languedock*, *Provence*, *Britain*, *Nor-*  
 „ *mandy* and severall other Provinces: But now these, and divers  
 „ more, as *Lorain*, *Alsacia*, *French County*, *Burgundy* and a great  
 „ part of the *Netherlands* are of later years added and laid to the  
 „ *Monarchy of France*. I am of opinion, that if *my King* should

„ joyn with *his Majestie of Great Britain*, they Two might divide  
 „ the world between them; the One to be *Emperour* at Land, the  
 „ Other at Sea: and 'tis both reasonable and naturall it should  
 „ be so: for *We* and the *English* are So mixt in bloud, and our con-  
 „ sanguinity such that *We* are One People: *The English* have  
 „ been severall ages in *France*; as may be seen by the stately Church-  
 „ es and other Fabricks they built, whilst in *France*: Then the  
 „ *Normans* possessed and governed *England*; as may appear by  
 „ the Laws written in the *French* tongue, and yet remaining in  
 „ practice to this very day: so that we are an *English-French*, and  
 „ they a *French-English*. But if the *King of Great Britain* will not  
 „ joyn with nor assist *my King*, yet he must, notwithstanding that,  
 „ be *Emperour*; all things tend to it. Is not *Paris* now become  
 „ like *Rome* in old time, who gave Laws and taught Manners to  
 „ the whole world? As in those days all Nations learned *Latin*,  
 „ that thereby they might understand the Civilities, Laws and E-  
 „ ducation of *the Romans*: So now, Do not all Nations learn  
 „ *French*? Do not you send all your choice and Noblest-born  
 „ Princes, Gentry, and richest Merchants Sons to our *Academies*  
 „ in *Paris*? Do not *We* impose on you all the Modes of *France*?  
 „ Take but a view of all *Christendom*, and you will find, That  
 „ there's not so much as a little *German Prince* but he must have a  
 „ *Frenchman* for his Barber, *Valet de chambre*, or Lackey; and one  
 „ of these often makes a Governour for the young Prince. and  
 „ a most Excellent Privy Councillour. Sometimes I have known a  
 „ Prince that hath kept himself undrest six days, expecting with  
 „ great impatience his perwigg and feathers, and other gallan-  
 „ tries out of *France*. Travel into what parts you please where  
 „ there is a Court, as in *Rome*, and even in *Madrid* itself, there you  
 „ shall find every Prince and Gentilman hath a *Frenchman* to  
 „ teach him how to dress himself, yea, and how to eat with  
 „ a *bon mein*. Go no farther than to *Amsterdam*, or more espe-  
 „ cially to *the Hagh*, where you may observe all to be turn'd perfect  
 „ *Monsieurs*: and in *Amsterdam* the old *Hollander* is so changed,  
 that

„ that there is scarce such a Creature to be found : there is not a  
 „ rich Merchants daughter there that will admit of a *Bezuca*, much  
 „ less go to Church to be married untill she hath her Modes,  
 „ Curls for her head, her Tower &c. from *France*, or at least, buy  
 „ the same of a *French Madam*, who, with the help of a *French*  
 „ *Dancing-Master*, set's Mrs. Brides Locks, teacheth her the Cou-  
 „ rant and Coupé, and then perswades her, She is the most com-  
 „ pleat Madam *ala mode* in the Town; giving as an advise, that  
 „ nothing but a *French Feile de Chambre* can preserve the Dress and  
 „ *bon meyn* they have left her in. Thus are *We French* the Fashion-  
 „ mongers and School of Manners and good breeding for the  
 „ Universe. Besides all this, All *Europe* and Other parts of the  
 „ world are beholden to us for Invention : Our *King* hath esta-  
 „ blished in *Paris* 2 Colledges, One for a Royal Society of *Vir-*  
 „ *tuouso's*, the Other called *Bon Esprit*. In a word, *France* furnish-  
 „ eth the world with more numbers of Good Writers, Fighters,  
 „ and Men *Onet & bein a juste*, than all Christendom besides.

„ *Gentlemen*, I suppose you know, I am a Son of the Church of  
 „ *Rome*; yet I wish from my very heart, that the *Dolphine* were  
 „ crowned *King of the Romans* : For my part, I wish that old  
 „ *Holy man* and all the Fops about him were removed to some  
 „ other place; and so make room for a Brave *Emperour*, such as  
 „ my *King* or the *Dolphine* would make : but if he must needs live  
 „ in *Rome*, let him be content to live in *St. Iohn de Lateran*, as in  
 „ old time : Five hundred pistols a year is more than any honest  
 „ *Bishop* in the world ought to spend, if he live like a true Shep-  
 „ herd, and useth onely his Crostiers Staff. *Murblew*, Since the  
 „ Bishops traversed the sword over the Crostiers Staff in their  
 „ Arms, the Churchmen become Fighters and Executioners of  
 „ Civil Justice; which, to my judgement, is quite contrary to *St.*  
 „ *Pauls* words, *Let not a Bishop be a striker*. My Opinion is, That  
 „ if the thirty five Millions of Livres which the *Pope* and his Idle-  
 „ pack or lazy Drones devour, were employed in the maintaining  
 „ of a brave army against the *Turk*, it might be better spent. You  
 „ shall!

„ shall see in some few years, if *my Master* be not *Emperour*, that  
 „ the *Turk* will make bold to give *his Holiness* a Visit from *Candia*.  
 „ And, on the contrary, if *my King* be *Emperour*, you will see  
 „ the *Flower-de-Luces* placed in the room of the 3. *Half-Moons*.

„ If Any think I have been too satyrical touching the *Pope* and  
 „ his *Cardinals*, and spoken too irreverently of them, sith, Some  
 „ of those *Bishops of Rome* have been good men, as *Sixtus Quintus*  
 „ a Gentleman eminent both for learning and Religion, the like  
 „ whereof may be said of that devout man *Cardinal Bona* lately  
 „ dead, yet living in his highly esteemed works; as also that  
 „ *Pope Alexander the VII.* was a Gentleman &c. Yet for all that,  
 „ Know, that I handle that sort of men very modestly: I could  
 „ blacken the *See of Rome*, in this Discourse, at another rate, if I  
 „ were not a Child of that *Church*. I could tell of severall *Popes*,  
 „ who lived and died *Heathens*; Some of their bodies having been  
 „ taken up and burned, as is for truth received, after their tenents  
 „ were found in their Closets: neither, have I painted out the  
 „ Lives of Some *Cardinals* in my days; those are things so well  
 „ known by them who live among them, that 'tis needless here  
 „ to repeat what's in every vulgar mouth. In short, Let me say  
 „ over again, If the *Pope* and his Crew, who, possess *Rome*, do  
 „ continue so to rule, and that *Italy* be thus governed, most by  
 „ the *Church*, then, say I, the *Turk* or any Other Neighbour  
 „ may take the Countrey from them: (Let it be remembred what  
 „ *my King* did at *Avignon*;) for their Countrey is half depopu-  
 „ lated; which is occasioned by 3. things: *First*, by making  
 „ such vast numbers of *Eunuchs*. *Secondly*, by practising the sin of  
 „ *Sodom* so much as they do: for it is most certainly true, that ma-  
 „ ny thousands of *Italians* perfectly hate the Female Sex. *Lastly*,  
 „ by the innumerable Company of *Monasteries* and *Nunneries*; in  
 „ which may be modestly accounted two hundred thousand  
 „ Nuns; the which, if lawfully employed in generation-work,  
 „ might produce great numbers of usefull Creatures: whereas  
 „ now, on the contrary, both *Monks*, *Friers* and *Nuns* are forced

„ to make use of all their skil and arts to destroy Gods image by  
 „ them made in secret, and all to hide the scandal of being ac-  
 „ counted breakers of the unwarrantable oaths and vows they  
 „ make to observe their Founders Maximes or Rules of their Order.  
 „ To conclude my Discourse, I will onely say this One thing  
 „ more touching the qualification of My Master to become Empe-  
 „ rour, rather than any Other King: and that is, *His most Chri-  
 „ stian Toleration of Liberty of Conscience* in all his Dominions and  
 „ Territories. In France you find severall *Protestant-Universities*,  
 „ and great numbers of Temples and Churches for the *Protestant-  
 „ Worship*. Consider but what abundance of *French-Ministers* are  
 „ sent thence to serve the *Protestant-Churches* abroad, as under  
 „ that one Government of the *States of the United Provinces*;  
 „ where may be reckoned about *Fiftie French Ministers*; besides  
 „ what are in *England, Germany* and other Countreys. Our *Doctors  
 „ of the Sorbon* are not such Fools as to maintain or nourish an *In-  
 „ quisition*; No: Nor will *Our King* refuse the good service of the  
 „ *Protestants*: On the contrary, He makes them *Presidents of Parlia-  
 „ ments*, and *Secretaries of State* in severall Provinces, also *Generals  
 „ and other Officers* in his *Armies*; according to their merit.  
 „ Whereas on the other hand, *the House of Austria* will permit no  
 „ man to have preferment in the *Emperours or King of Spains Courts*,  
 „ unless he first become a *Papist*. And if you well weigh the horrid,  
 „ hellish and absolutely unwarrantable practices of the *Spanish In-  
 „ quisition*, then will you with me confess, that most of the Evils that  
 „ have befallen Christendom, have had their Rise from that Dia-  
 „ bolical Court of *Inquisition*: it makes more *Jews* in *Spain, Portu-  
 „ gal, and Italy*, than would be; occasioned from the worse than  
 „ Barbarous cruelty practised by the Lords of that *Inquisition*: for,  
 „ say the *Jews*, as you pretend, your *Iesus* was filled with bowels of  
 „ Love and compassion; yet to the contrary, you practise worse  
 „ cruelties than ever did, any *Pagan*. I pray also, what was the  
 „ Cause of the *Netherlanders Revolt*? And what were the designs  
 „ of the *Spanjards* against *Queen Elizabeth* in 88? and from whom  
 B came:

„ came that wicked Plot or *Gun-powder-Treason* in *King James* his  
 „ days? you will answer me, these were hatch'd in *Spain* by the  
 „ *Spanish Inquisition*. & if you cast your eye upon our present Age,  
 „ you will find *Messina* revolting from the same Cause, at least from  
 „ the ill Government of *the House of Austria*; which if a man take  
 „ a view of, either in the Kingdom of *Naples*, *Milain*, *Sicily* or in  
 „ *Spain* itself, he will behold such disorder in the civil Government,  
 „ that it is a miracle how that Monarchy hath so long continued.  
 „ I thought to have said something touching *my King* his being  
 „ lineally descended from *Charlemagne*: But that I shall refer to  
 „ another opportunity: and so put a Period to what I have to say  
 „ upon this high and eminent and just Design.

Thus have you the *Frenchmans* Pretences, with the Rhetorick  
 used to beget a belief and approbation of the righteous and necessary  
 grounds of their high Undertakings.

Now please to admit the *Spaniard* to be heard in his sober Re-  
 plication: and permit me to bring him also upon the Stage, mak-  
 ing answer to what with patience hath been born out of the Dis-  
 course of the vapouring *Frenchman*.

And thus the *Don* begins: „ I acknowledge that the *Mon-*  
 „ *sieur*, like a true-born *Frenchman*, hath made a large *Bravado*:  
 „ and yet if all were true he hath asserted, I doubt not but to give  
 „ you greater Arguments and Demonstrations to prove that No  
 „ one Familie in *Europe* or in the whole world is of that conside-  
 „ ration as is *my Kings Familie*: yea, I do affirm, that No two  
 „ Kings in Christendom have half the strength in numbers of Sub-  
 „ jects, and quantities of Countreys and Provinces as are under  
 „ the Command of *my Masters Familie*. 'Twere but time vainly  
 „ spent to entertain you with answering the *Monsieur* to that  
 „ wherein he would impose upon us a belief that *his King* is line-  
 „ ally descended from *Charlemagne*: For your Conviction, 'tis  
 „ but onely casting your eye upon that piece of Treason practised  
 „ by a *Isabon-Frier* on the *House of Valois*, for the bringing in this  
 „ *House of Bourbon*; of which this *Lewis the 14<sup>th</sup>* is the Third.

But.



„ But most apparent it is; that the *House of Austria* is a true  
 „ branch of the *Charlovingians*; as is evident from severall Histo-  
 „ rians. Touching therefore the Right or Title that either the  
 „ *House of Bourbon* or *Austria* hath to the *Imperial Crown*, I shall  
 „ not proceed to discourse, because 'tis so well known where the  
 „ Right is, that this is the first time I ever heard it brought in  
 „ question.

„ But I shall go on to show you why the *Imperial Crown*  
 „ ought to remain in the *House of Austria*.

„ First, Do but consider what vast numbers of Kingdoms,  
 „ Dukedoms and Segniories the *House of Austria* doth possess: and  
 „ by that you may judge how much they exceed in Subjects,  
 „ Riches, and quantity of Land: I will name some of their Posses-  
 „ sions, viz. the Kingdoms of Leon, *Aragon*, *Catalonia*, *Na-*  
 „ *varre*, *Naples*, *Granada*, *Myrcia*, *Valentia*, *Castilia*, *Biscia*,  
 „ *Galicia*, *Algarle*, *Cicilia*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, the Dukedoms of  
 „ *Burgondy*, *Milain*, *Austria*; part of the *Netherlands*: and be-  
 „ sides all these, many Isles in *Europe* and *Africa*, as *Tenerif*, the  
 „ *Canary Islands* &c. Beyond all which, if a view could be taken  
 „ of the large extent of those grand Kingdoms and Provinces,  
 „ Isles and various Territories they have in the *East and West-In-*  
 „ *dies*, as their Patrimony left them by *St. Peter*, then might you  
 „ truly grant that to be a reality which hath so long been asserted,  
 „ viz. That the *Sun always shines on their Dominions*. But further,  
 „ if you shall make a comparison between the Riches, Traffick,  
 „ and Merchandise of the *House of Austria* with that of *France*,  
 „ 'twill be evident to you, the One is but a Pedlers Shop, the  
 „ Other a Rich Magazin of gold, silver, pearls, silks, and spice-  
 „ ries. For a Demonstration hereof, Do but ask the *Englishman*,  
 „ what Kind of Merchandizes the *French* bring over into *England*,  
 „ and what sort of Trumperie and Pedling-Merchants the *French*  
 „ there be: The best Merchandise the *French* furnish other parts  
 „ of the world with, except some salt and wine, is little better  
 „ than Bables and Toys; when at the same time We *Spaniards* send



„ great quantities of Bullion, and rich Silks, fine Wool &c. And  
 „ as for the *French* Traders in *England*, Do but observe them, and  
 „ you will find them, for the most part, Barbers, Taylors, Per-  
 „ wigg-makers, John Potages, and a sort of Vermin, that onely  
 „ live so long in *England* untill they have swell'd themselvs  
 „ full with the riches of that Land; and then they fly to France  
 „ again, and disgorge that Riches on some few acres of Land; by  
 „ which means, after a year or two, starts up, mushrom-like,  
 „ *Monfr. Marqués de Chandellé, de bel Gantelet* or *Marq. de peigne,*  
 „ *Marq. de Valet &c.* and this great grievance bring the *French*  
 „ to all Nations where e're they come, that they marry some  
 „ *Fille de Chambre*, and they two, dwelling in Chambers, paying  
 „ no custom or duties, make children together; and most com-  
 „ monly the Wives and Brats are left to the Parish to maintain;  
 „ nay, yet further, how is every Prison, yea and Hospital fill'd with  
 „ them in *England*? yea and the gallows too somtimes; witness  
 „ the *Frenchman* that set *London* on fire, and the *Monfieur* that  
 „ kill'd his *Master*. When to the contrary of this, I dare be bold  
 „ to affirm it, that there are in all *London* scarce two *Spanish* Bar-  
 „ bers, Taylors, or Mechanick Handicrafts-Tradesmen: all  
 „ being great and able Merchants or Bankers.

„ Now whereas the *Frenchman* makes a semblance of Religion,  
 „ and giving freedom to Religious people; Let All men judge  
 „ of this, who do but lend their ears to the most deplorable stories  
 „ of their cruelties in destroying so many hundred Towns and  
 „ thousands of poor People in the *Palatinate*, in *Alsatia*, *Twee-*  
 „ *brugge* and the circumjacent parts; such dreadfull burnings, rov-  
 „ ings, plunderings and tyranny exercis'd on an innocent peo-  
 „ ple hath not been paralleled in a whole age, as they have now  
 „ committed within these 2. last Months of *January* and *February*.  
 „ And whereas the *Monfieur* saith, that if his *Master* were *Empe-*  
 „ *roure*, he would thrust the *Grand Seigneur* out at a farther distance  
 „ from *Italy* and *Hungary*, I believe 't is no hard matter to prove  
 „ that it is *He* that hath invited him into *Christendom* to make  
 diver-

„ diversion , whilst he practiseth his designs upon *the Emperour*.  
 „ and 't is most certain, that it was the *French* alone that widened  
 „ the breach in *Germany* between the *Emperour* and *the Princes* in  
 „ the last Civil War. *The Frenchman* is not ashamed to boast of  
 „ his Kings Actions about *Avignon*; also telling us, that there  
 „ is no use for the *Pope*, sith the *Sorbon-Doctors* can do all as well:  
 „ but as to the *French Kings* manner of treating the *Pope* at *Avig-*  
 „ *nion*, and his rendring the *Pope* useles, let every true Catholick  
 „ judge how religiously those things look.

„ For a Conclusion, I shall onely put *the Monsieur* to a change  
 „ of his countenance, and, it may be, of his ambition also, when  
 „ I shall advertise him of the great disappointment of his *Grand*  
 „ *Masters* expectations touching his hopes of intestin troubles in  
 „ *Spain*; the thoughts whereof do now wholly vanish, upon the  
 „ peaceable entrance of that Illustrious Prince *Don Iohn* into *Ma-*  
 „ *drid*, and the right understanding between *the King my Master*  
 „ and him; together with his present capacity of relieving *Cata-*  
 „ *lonia*, and, perhaps, giving a visit to the King of France, where  
 „ he will scarce be welcome: From him doubtless, I mean,  
 „ that honest & heroick *Spanjard*, *Don Iohn*, all men of sober  
 „ judgements expect both good and great things, such as may be-  
 „ come the grandour of his person, and integrity of his princi-  
 „ ples.

Thus have you an account of the Essays made by the Cham-  
 pions of these aspiring Princes: Much more of this Kind of pole-  
 mical Discourse are We in this place, bordering on the seat of War,  
 daily acquainted with: *Onely by pride* (saith *Solomon*) *comes conten-*  
*tion*: The unsatiable desire of being great and having much, makes  
 all this strife, from whence the misery of mankind is grievously  
 aggravated; and in particular this part of the world involvd in  
 a present labyrinth of trouble, and in danger of a future desola-  
 tion: the State whereof I shall endeavour with all modesty, can-  
 dor and indifferency to present to your view.

Herein, Sr, I shall give you the trouble of a short Relation of

the Source and Rise of these Affairs, and so descend to these last times, which you will find to abound with all the abominable and horrid evils that can enter into the mind of Man to imagin: Which account of things, as a single-hearted *Hollander*, I shall so manage, that all passion, Satyricall expressions, provocations, or offensive reflections shall be forborn; and all due observance manifested to all Sovereign Potentates, Princes and Powers whatsoever.

In the Beginning of the Fifth Age (or Century) in the midst of the divisions of *Rome*, they spoke of the *French*, as of a barbarous people, perfidious, inconstant and full of lies; they were enclined to warrs, having much wit and understanding, which gave them occasion, courage and means to overthrow and ruin the *Roman Empire in the West*: and upon those ruins they meant, under their *Clouis*, to lay the foundation of a Kingdom that should be formidable to it's Neighbours, and that should have drawn along with it the rest of *Europe*, under it's dominion: Which might haply have been, if it had not immediately been weakened by the dividing of it among his Children and Successours; Who by their continuall debates so hindred, that it did not fall under

One Monarchy; and by that means conserved the Ballance so necessary for the rest of their Neighbours. But this good time endured not longer than unto *Charlemagne*, who, having reunited those so formidable forces of the *French*, and subdued the best part of *Europe*, was proclaimed *Emperour* by the *Pope of Rome*; and became the *Arbiter of Christendom*. But, by a secret fatalitie, he fell into the same fault, which *Clouis* had committed

with his Children, and distributed this mighty *Empire* among his Children; so making an Eclips in the *Universal*

Monarchy; which the *French* at this day endeavour with so much zeal to retrieve. And indeed the Posterity of *Charle Magne* have vexed themselves exceedingly about the reestablishing this *grand Empire*; though hitherto in vain; they at the last growing sluggish, gave over, or however slackd much in that design:

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which gave occasion that One of the *Third Race* came to be set upon the Throne; who reigns at present, more vigilant and more active than the Other of those Branches do, who yet have never lost their view and prospect of the *Monarchy of Clovis* and of *Charle Magne* their Predecessours. But upon the advancement of *Capet* to the Crown, the Grandees of the Kingdom thought that He ought to suffer all things from them, because they had put on his head the Diadem which he wore; whereupon they divided the Kingdom among them, and parted it into severall pieces; which have not been reunited without great pains and trouble: and you must grant it me, that none at all, saving *Lewis the Eleventh*, was capable of effecting so great a work as the reuniting together of what was squandered abroad in so many Provinces; and so to bring his Kingdom into a State, not onely to defend himself against his Neighbours, but also to Rule over them; and to bring again to his Successours the appetite and envy of reestablishing the *Monarchy of Charle Magne*; And this might have had a good issue by *King Louis the XIV*, if he had known how to pursue his victorie, in stead of standing amused, at *Seist* near *Utrecht* in the year 1672.

The high attempts of *Louis the XI*. put the following *Kings of France* again upon the oppression of their people, and abusing the greatest Personages under them: And, the truth is, since *the English* Mexeraay pag. 713. were constrained to abandon the Kingdom of *France*, more by their own quarrels and divisions than by the valour of *the French*, their Kingdom hath received a wonderfull encrease and access, by the reunion of their best Provinces; and their Monarchs have recalled to mind their ancient ideas and apprehensions of *the Universal Monarchy*, and from time to time have ruined their Neighbours by warrs grounded upon their old pretences.

And to take a little nearer inspection into this affair, you must know, that when *Louis the XI*. did in the beginning of his Reign take notice, that his onely Brother *Charles* was allied with the *Dukes of Burgundy* and *Britain* against him, for the publick welfare

of the *Kingdom* He carried smoothly toward them and made semblance as if he would give them contentment, but with intention to separatethem, and to ruin them one after another; which did succeed very well to his mind, to the great dammage of the rest of *Christendom*, and particularly to the destruction of *the Netherlands*; sith that, since that time, *the French* have wasted *Italy* and *Germany*, and nigh ruined *the Netherlands* &c. with the los of an innumerable multitude of people and goods. And, in case the Civil Warrs for Religion had not prevented and diverted this fiery, impetuous, restless warlick humour, *Poor Christendom* had seen itself at that very hour a Slave of *France*. Thence you have, *St*, the generall source of the misery of *Europe*, viz. the vast and unlimited ambition of that Sanguin Nation, their gall and unquiet humour, ready to eat out and devour it's own bowels; if those ancient pretences be not laid aside: of which there is little hope, whilst *the French* renew them every moment; still wearying the world with those chimerical images of their *Louis* and *Charlemagne*, which had sufficiently galled the former ages; although they have been abolished by Solemn Treaties (yet become unfruitfull) and by Præscription almost time out of mind. Lo the plague of Mankind, and the true cause of all the calamities whereunder *Europe* at present groaneth.

But to come to particulars: I shall not speak here, but onely *en passant*, of the old Warrs of the *Gauls* against the *Romans*: nor tell how they brought to desolation their *Great Citie*, as also a good part of *Italie*; nor how they ravaged in *Asia*, and there established the Kingdom of *Gallo-Gracia*, as an evidence, as it seemeth, that this Climate always produced men given to high enterprizes above others, and to trouble the tranquillity of the world: For that this doth not so concern the *French*, who have subdued the *Gauls*; and, by consequence, are therefore the more to be feared, as likewise for their cruelty and natural furie, which they have inherited from their Ancestours *the Scythians*; of whom *their Authors* make them Successours.

Meze-  
ray A-  
bre v.  
Chronol.  
p. 3.

Onely

Guicciardin  
lib. 1. della  
sua Histo-  
ria.

Onely please to consult the *Historians of Florence* : by whom you may see how they have troubled and confounded the State of *Italy*, till almost the end of the fourteenth Century.

Though true it is also, that among the *Italians* were several domestick and internall Warrs : yet they were without any cruelty, without consuming by fire, without the shedding of much humane blood : as *Machiavel*, writing of a great battel that endured four hours together between many thousands of men (I shall take heed of calling them Soldiers) of the Duke of *Milains* and of the *Florentins*, saith, that there was killed but one single man, who fell off from his horse, and was trampled under the feet of the Horsemen.

*Machiavel*  
lib. 5. del.  
Hist. p.  
175. &  
216.

*Et in tanta rotta, & in sì lunga zutta, che durò dalle XX. alle XXIV. hore : non vi morì altri, che un huomo; il quale non di ferite; ò d'altro virtuoso colpo : ma caduto da cavallo, e calpesto espiro, con tanta sùbita all' hora gli huomini combattevano; &c.*

In so much, that at that time in *Italy* properly there was neither peace nor warr.

*Perche pace non si può affermare che sia; dove spesso i principati con l'armia l'uno; el' altro s'assaltano, guerre ancora non si possono chiamare; &c.*

But after the *French* were entred there, and renewed their old pretences upon the Realms of *Naples* and *Cicilie* under *Charles the VIII.* this fair Elogie is given them by *Guicciardin*, that they filled the Countrey all over with fire and blood : as he pathetically writes :

*Guicciardin* An-  
teur Florentin,  
affectioné aux  
François; com-  
me la plus part  
de ceux de sa  
nation ; dans  
son premier li-  
vre de l'Hist.

*Et che condussero seco in Italia; i semi d'innumerabili calamità; e d'horribilissimi accidenti, & variatione di quasi tutte le cose : perche dalla passata sua non solo hebbero principio mutationi di stato, sovversione di regni; e desolationi di paesi; &c.*

And the same Authour remarketh the cause and originall of all those miseries and evils, by his following words; which I shall here



here insert, because they are worthy your reflection upon them :

Mori finalmente Renato; e non havendo figliuoli maschi, fece herede in tutti gli stati, e ragioni sue, Carlo figliuolo del Fratello, il quale morendo poco dipoi senza figliuoli, lasciò per testamento la sua heredità à Luigi XI. Re di Francia; a cui non solo ricadde; come à supremo Signore il Ducato d'Angiò; nel quale perche è membro della Corona; non succedono le femine; ma con tutto : che'l Duca di Lorena asserisse appartenersi a se la succeSSIONe de gli stati, entrò in possessione della Provenza; e poteva per vigore del Testamento medesimo pretendere essergli applicate le ragioni : Che gli. Angioini havevano sopra il Reame di Napoli; le quali essendo per la sua morte, continuate in Carlo VIII. suo figliuolo, incominciò Ferdinando Re di Napoli ad havere potentissimo auversario, e si presentò grandissima opportunità a chiunque d'offenderlo desiderava : perche il Regno di Francia era in quel tempo piu Florido d'huomini : di gloria d'arme, d'arme, di potentia, di ricchezze : e d'autorità intra gli altri regni : che forse doppo Carlo Magno fusse mai stato essendosi ampliato novellamente, in ciascuna di quelle tre parti; nelle quali appresso gli antichi si divideva tutta la Gallia. Conciosia che non piu che quaranta anni à questo tempo sotto Carlo VII. Re, per molte vittorie ottenute con gravissimi pericoli, chiamato bene auventurato, si fussero ridotto sotto quel imperio, la Normandia, e'l Ducato di Ghienna; provincie possedute prima dagli Inglesi : e ne gli ultimi anni di Luigi XI. la Contè a di Provenza, il Ducato di Borgogna, e quasi tutta la Picardia, dipoi aggiunto per nuovo matrimonio alla potentia di Carlo VIII. il Ducato di Bretagna; ne mancava nel animo di Carlo inclinatione à cercer d'acquistare con l'arme il regno di Napoli, come giustamente appartenente a se; cominciata per un certo instinto quasi naturale insino da pueritia; e nutrita da' conforti d'alcuni, che gli erano molto accetti; i quali empiendolo di pensieri vani, gli proponevano, questa essere occasione d'avanzare la gloria de' Suoi predecessori : perche acquistato il Reame di Napoli, gli sarebbe agevole, vincere l'Imperio de Turchi.

Shortly after the said Historian followeth his discourse in this manner :



*Incominciò in tale dispositione de gli animi, & in tale confusione delle cose tanto inclinate à nuove perturbationi, l'Anno 1494, anno infelicissimo all'Italia, & in verita anno primo de gli anni miserabili perche aperse la porta à innumerabili, & horribili calamità delle quali si può dire che per diversi accidenti, habbia dipoi partecipato una gran parte del mondo, & par les prodiges qui presageoient cette guerre; d'incredibile timore si riempivano i popoli; spaventati già per la Fama della potentia de Francesi; &c.*

And indeed *King Charles the VIII.* made himself Master of the Kingdom of Naples in few days, by the terrour of his Arms; (doing it by assault, burning the *Mount St. Iohn*, passing with his sword through all that was to be found: an unheard of Case in those times) and he soon lost it again afterwards by his negligence, and too little care he had to preserve it.

But We must not now so flatter ourselves: *Their present Monarch* know's no less how to conserve than to conquer Provinces. If we do but observe the marches of this Imperious Nation on the borders of *Germany*, there we shall see *Alsatia* turned out of the hands of the *Almains*: and joyned to their Crown; a *Duke of Lorraine* driven out of his own Land; 3. *Bishops*, viz. *Thoul*, *Metz* and *Verdun* dismember'd from the *Empire*; which He Keeps in continuall divisions and agitations by his Emissaries, by his intrigues and by his corruptions.

*Lastly*, Descending to the *Netherlands*, the Principall Subject of our Discourse: It is to be considered, in what manner the *French* have endeavoured to bring them into that miserable Condition wherein we see them at this day; and to discover the true cause of their maladies: to this end We must have recourse to the reign of *Louis the XI. King of France*, who by his subtilty and deceits ruined *Charles the Stout Duke of Burgondy*, and Lord of all the *Netherlands*; stirring him up new Enemies from time to time, who at last gathered together before *Nancy*; where he lost his life, and his people all their welfare, which since that time they never could recover. Some years before, *this Prince*, who possed *Bourgondy*;

*all*

all the Netherlands, and (the Citie Paris being then a Frontier of the Kingdom of France) almost whole Picardy, did bridle, by his intelligence and courage, the ambition of this King so full of artifices: but, because, for easing of his people, he was not provided with a good and well ordered Militia, he came to be surprized by the Other; who, by his horrible exactions of taxes and laying impositions upon his people, was always accompanied and encompassed with a great quantity of armed men; the which gave him means and therewith desire to extend his limits in despite of his Neighbours: but the matter was well enough balanced untill the death of Charles the Stout: whose death caused to his people anabyss of calamities and miseries: seeing Louis the XI. at that time kept to himself Bourgondia, whole Picardy, Arras, and many other considerable places: He likewise always amused the English, after the death of the said Duke, to the end they should

Philip. de  
Comines  
Chapit. se-  
cond du 6.  
Livre.

The same  
Author.  
12. Chap.  
of the 5.  
Book.

not hinder him in the conquests of those Lands. Yet by the marriage of Mary of Bourgondy Heyress of the Netherlands with Maximilian of Austria, as also by the loss of the battel of Guinagate, the French could not execute their design, to bring under their power the Seventeen Provinces; which yet they might very easily have joyned to their Crown, by a marriage of their Dauphine with the said Damsel Mary of Bourgondy: if the good God had not blinded Louis de XI. and taken away his senses: and hereby was the way to the Universal Monarchy wonderfully made plain & clear for Philip the Fair Son of Maximilian, and for Charles the Fifth: Then again the Netherlanders took a little breath; howbeit They were often incommodated by the invasions of the French: who nevertheless found themselves not in posture to undertake any thing against their Neighbours, because of the Parties and leagues which soon after were formed in the bosom of that Kingdom: And yet, however hindred by so many cruel civil wars, the French quickly recovered again; and retook very much vigour by the courage and wise conduct of Henry the Great:

The

The *Netherlands* having been in that intervall always rent by a perpetuall warr in the bowells of their Provinces : but all that was not capable of ruining them : there was need of the engins of a *Cardinal de Richelieu* for an absolute abasing of them , and reestablishing the *French* in their ancient splendour , and making them (after the reduction of *Rochel*, and suppressing those of the *Reformed Religion*) to follow on in the footsteps of their glorious Ancestours , taking the way of *Charlemagne* unto the Monarchy : to which end they must throw down or debase the greatness of the *House of Austria*, now prodigiously encreased , more by Marriages than by Arms; which fell out exceeding well : He leaving behind him a worthy Successour the *Cardinal Mazarin* for to achieve the prosecution of his Designs; who would not have missed to emport the *Netherlands* ; in case it had not then been prevented by the *Queen of France Anna d' Austria*, who did oblige him to make a marriage between the *King Louis XIV.* and the *Infanta of Spain* ; and at the same time to conclude the peace of the *Pirenees* ; by which means the rest of the then staggering *Netherlands* was preserved : then were affairs in a tolerable state ; whereof the good Subjects wished a long continuance and confirmation , having begun to tast the sweetness of the Peace : When yet in the year 1667, without any denunciation, or reasonable cause of war, upon a weak cause, and pretext of a Custom of Devolution of *Fief* upon the Children of the First Marriage, practised in *Brabant* and other places in particular houses, (which had never been confirmed by the Sovereign, nor used in Families of Princes) the *French*, as an effect of their enterprizing humour, invested the best Cities of those Lands ; the rest whereof cannot maintain themselves otherwise than by miracles : But this deserves a more particular Examination.

The *King Louis XIV.* having conceived an unchangeable design of reaching hard for the Monarchy of the greatest part of *Europe* , or, at least, to limit his Kingdom by the *Alpes*, the *Pirenees*, the *Mediterranean Sea*, the *Ocean* and the *Rhine* ; judging that the *Ne-*

*therlands*, now in a state of welfare and comeliness, might serve for a wall of planks, for the further propagating of his Conquests, Did, in the Moneth of *May* in the year 1667. in time of a full peace, without any subject of rupture with *Spain*, and notwithstanding good and positive assurances of good correspondence and friendship given by his Ambassadour at *Madrid*, march with an Army of 50000 men for to take possession (so as they could, and not make war) of the *Netherlands*, devolved by the death of *Philip the IV. King of Spain* upon the *Queen his Wife*: and therewith He approached *Charleroy*, which the *Spaniards* had abandoned, because it was not in a State of defence: But the *French* having in a short time brought it into a good posture, soon after took, without great resistance, the Towns of *Tournay*, *Douay*, *Orchier*, *Lisle*, *Courtray*, *Audenard*, *Aeth*, *Bergen St. Winoc*, and *Turnes*, that is to say, all the best Cities of *Flanders*, situated in the bosom of the Land, which had very little or no Garrisons in them, because of the assurance they had of a Peace, which had been so solemnly sworn, and confirmed by a Marriage; which yet, in stead of serving as a band, as was hoped, for the nearer uniting of the two Crowns, was by the *French* made use of for a pretext of war: and by this means they were soon Masters of three of the principall Rivers of the Land, viz. of the *Liz*, the *Escarpes*, and the *Scheld*; thereby breaking their Commerce and Communication with the remaining Towns, to their great decay of trade. And really the *Spaniards* being obliged by the *Treaty of Aken* to yield over to the *French* all that they took from them in the *Netherlands*, they became very unable to preserve the rest: For, as is evident, when we will pass the Center within *Bruxels*, we cannot pass the circumference of the Frontier for it's defence, otherwise than by three or four semidiameters which are very narrow, One whereof goeth by *Mons* (or *Bergen*) in *Hainaut*, (or *Henegow*) *S. Gillain* and *Valenciennes* to *Cambray*; the Second by *Namur* (or *Namen*) to *Luxemburgh*; the Third by *Gent* and *Ypre* to *S. Omer*; the Last by *Weert* and *Roermonde* a village of *Gelderland*: all which

pas-

passages are incommodated by the *French*, who, by their continual concourses in those parts, do very lightly hinder the Convoys which should be brought into the Cities of the Frontiers. And who can, without tears in his eyes, look upon this Country that is so miserably subjected to a cruel Contribution, (being not a fingers breadth of Land without vexation) the value whereof amounteth unto prodigious summs: the Citie of *Mastricht* alone bringing up for their share four Millions: by which 'tis very easy to comprehend, That they pursue their Warrs at the charge of their Enemies, which doubtless they therefore desire to continue, (notwithstanding all their shows and expressions they make for Peace) and so will they make the poor people desperate, who wish for nothing else but a good Peace and an end of the warrs, or a *Master* that is powerfull to defend them: and that they may be driven to that extremity I very much apprehend, and fear we shall shortly see effected; this having already been shewed in diverse rencounters, particularly at *Aire*, (or *Arien*) where the Burgers did constrain the Garrison which consisted of 4000 men to give it over to the *French*.

It is very true that the *Netherlands* are in a poor condition, unprovided of all things; and that the *King of Spain* hath no more there than 6000 horse to bring into the field, wherein their whole army consisteth, and 5000 *Spanish* foot to keep their Cittadels and places whereof they are most jealous; besides about 15000 *Walloons* and *Germans* for the ordinary Garrisons of the Towns; which number is yet too little, and the Soldiers not well enough treated to be able to keep their places: in so much that the *Hollanders* are obliged to leave there more than ten thousand men for their defence. My hairs rise upon my head, when I consider the danger wherein we are; and that the welfare of the Land depends onely upon the taking or surprizing of one or two Cities; the loss whereof would undoubtedly cause the rendition of the rest: for if the *French* take *Bergen in Henegow*, (where the Burgers are malcontent and murmur against the disorders of the *Spanish*) *Valencien* and *Cambray* are cut off, and without succour; having already much to do,

being blocked up by parties of the *French Army*, by *Bouchain*, and by a considerable Corps of the *French* that lodge in *Cambresis*: And in case we loose *Namur*, then the Citie and Land of *Luxemburgh* will immediately follow, for want of relief: so that one or two of those Columns being taken out of the way, the rest of the Building will fall of themselves, and applaud the triumph of the Overcomer. For the Great Cities, as *Bruges*, *Gent*, *Bruxels*, and *Antwerp*, either because of their conformity in Religion with the *Most Christian King*, or that they are in hopes (not without grounds) thereby to see the flourishing of the Commerce, and to have their River *Scheid* opened, or that they apprehend that *their Sovereign* is too far off, or hath not strength enough to guard them from the insultings of their Enemies who consume them to their bones, will very lightly embrace the *French yoke*: for the multitude of people that are there chuse such Party as they will; which shall certainly be the strongest, and that is *the French*. There is no man now who discerns not the manifest danger of the *Whole Netherlands*, which are so drained out by these warrs, and among whom you rencounter many people that have not the greatest affections for the *Prince of Orange*, and others, for reasons too long here to deduce, enclining to the *French*: Who then shall after this doubt, but that this *French Monarch* shall at last attain his aim, viz. first to extend his limits to *the Alpes*, to *the Pirenées*, and to *the Rhine*, and then to think further?

*The French* declare openly enough that they will not suffer the *Spanish* within the *Netherlands*, who during the minority of *their King*, or in their Civil Warrs, may give any trouble to this great and mighty Kingdom. Men must reform this errour which till now hath prevailed in their Opinions, That the *Prince of Orange*, joyning his troops with those of *Spain*, should be able to save the *Netherlands*: the contrarie having been experienced; for, notwithstanding what efforts he used, the *French* this last year took *Condé*, *Bouchain* and *Aire*; being three places which mightily incommode the Other; the last whereof had more than 200000 livres of



of contribution of *France*. Further is to be consider'd the advantages they have over us by their Magazins, which make them subsist in the Camp with their numerous Cavalry, when their Enemies cannot shew themselves for want of forrage: by which means they have the opportunity to make siege by some detachment, opposing the body of their Army (which is stronger in Cavalry than the Army of the *Allies*) in some advantageous place against those who would bring succour to the place they besiege; and so they play sure play, not hazarding their reputation and glory. The King came in at the beginning of the Spring (when there was no grass on the field to feed the horses) with an Army of 20000 horse and 30000 foot, leaving a few men within the Cittadels, now almost impregnable, which he had caused to be built, (after the peace made at *Aken*) at *Lisle*, *Tournay*, *Arras*, *Dunkerk*, and other places; and drawing out all the Garrisons which make up 30000 men, he joyned them to the troops of the Kings house, who were 16000 men strong: whereas on the contrary, the *Prince of Orange* was necessitated to weaken his Army, and to send or leave more than ten thousand men in the greatest Cities (for fear they should render themselves) then must he have an artillerie well furnished, regulated and governed, for to open the Campaign to some conquests, the *Germans* being still constrained to stay in their winter-quarters, uncapable to act or cause any diversion, through defect of forrage in the *Netherlands*. Then after an enterprize don upon any place, as is ordinary, *His Majestie* returns back, *re bene gesta*, and without any hazard of a battel; then makes detachments from *Flanders* to *Germany*, and so illudeth the great designs of the *Allies*.

We conclude then by all this, that the irregular ambition of the *French*, their unsatiable avarice, their old pretences upon *quasi* all the Provinces of *Europe*, their will and inclination to robbery, their vain, inconstant and unquiet humour not permitting their Neighbours to live in rest, are the true causes of all the calamities and miseries of *Christendom*, and especially of the *Netherlands*;



whom, it seems God had placed, as in his anger, in the midst of *Europe*, to the end they might be the beam of the Ballance.

Now in this case, It is necessary to have recourse to other Remedies, under God, than those which to this time have been used, for the healing us of this *French* Disease, that cometh now to the Noble parts of the Body of the *Seventeen Provinces*, making them rotten, and fall off by pieces, being in danger of a total destruction: Better means know we not than the application of *English Mercury* to make the Enemies salivate and evacuate what they have with so great greediness swallowed in. For whither else shall we betake ourselves for refuge, but to the *English*, for reestablishing the counterpois so necessary for the publick rest and felicity of *Christendom*, and especially of the *Netherlands*? for whose Conservation *England* is so greatly in it's interest concerned, having also received of God the advantage of a situation so excellent, as to be fit to keep the ballance of *Europe*, and be an Arbitrer of all things therein, shewing in effect that it hath reason on all occasions to say, *Cui adherco, ille præst, Whom I incline to shall prevail.*

And truly it is a glory for the *King of England*, that, whilst Other people are very unable to help, or are menaced, and so in an apprehension of the terrible forces of the *King of France*, or are overcome by his presents, against their own interest, or else ly still in a deep lethargy, He alone can præscribe limits to the, almost endless, ambition of the *French*, to bring them to reason, and put them in mind that they with their Monarchy, now so idolized; the designs whereof they believe to be infallible, are yet no other than men, and subject to change of fortune; which would ensue, in case the *English* should take the party of the *Allies*.

And what help can there be expected if we cast our eyes on other places for relief? Let's begin with *the Alpes*; there we have an object of astonishment, in observing the Low-spiritedness of the *Swissers*, that mercenary people, obliged by reason of State and formal Treaties to the guarrantie of the *Dukedom of Milain* and the *French County*; which yet they suffered, not long since, to be taken,

taken, in their sight. If we come to *Turin*, there we shall find a *Duke de Savoy* under the government of a *French Mother*, and depending on intelligences from the *French Court*, and in some sort bridled by the Fort of *Pignarol*, which is the Key of his Land. Not far from thence shall we find those of *Geneva* irresolved, trembling for fear, prepared to suffer insultings, and to make all sorts of curteous addresses for preserving their quiet; the conquest of whom would but be as the fruit of one *Campagne*, or, it may be, of three months time. If we enter further into *Italie*, there we shall find *Princes* weak and timid, who will not oppose themselves against the progresses of the victorious arms of *France*, unless in the greatest extremity. The *Republick of Venice*, in former times called the *Buckler of Italie*, being newly delivered from a grievous war against the *Turks*, shall not engage, or but very slowly, and putting off so long as they can, in a new war against *France*, which might be worse to them than the former. I shall not here mention the *Pope*, nor the *Great Duke of Tuscany*, who shall never undertake any thing of themselves, unless what properly relates to the reading of their *Breviary*; or, at best, they may be good to contrive a Treaty, or to fortify one that is already made by Others. If we pass into *Poland* and *Portugal*, we shall stand admiring, as we might not long since have don, in *Savoy* and *Bavaria*, to see the *Mistresses* to be *French Wives*, who possess and govern their Husbands, kept by the *French*, and driven by the same spirit of ambition to endeavour that *Kings* greatness, and who perswade themselves, that they have don a singular favour to the *Allies*, that they have till this time forbore to give them some notable diversion; which we have reason to apprehend for the future.

In so much that there is none but his *Majesty of Great Britain*, that is capable and worthy to sustain the quality and heavy (though glorious) burden of Arbitrator and Peacemaker of the troubled world: for we shall here leave out, as unworthy to be *Mediators*, the *Swedes*, those mercenary Souls and boutefeu of *Germany*, those infortunate Braves, who in stead of procuring the peace

and rest of the *Empire*, whereof they were Considerable Members, have disturbed the tranquility thereof, by their unjust invasion into the Lands of an *Electo*r, then employed on the Frontiers for the common defence of his Countrey; having sold themselves to *France*, for finishing the combustion of the rest of *Christendom*, There is therefore no other that can sustain the rank and do the function of a true *Esculapius* to heal our sicknesses, by Others incurable, but the *King of England*, and that by prescribing to the *French* such conditions of peace as shall reduce them from beyond the River the *Somme*, to keep within their old limits, as in the time of *Louis XI.* in the beginning of his Reign. And in case they refuse it, there is none but the *King of England* that can make them swallow *Ellebo*re to purge their brains of those ill humours and fumes which corrupt them, and blot out of their corrupted imaginations the vast idea's and *Chimæra's* of their *Charlemagne*; and so to calm all the troubles and tempests of *Europe*, whereof they are the Cause.

His Majesty shall but follow therein the footsteps of his glorious Ancestors, who passed beyond the Seas with numerous Armies to relieve the *Netherlands*, and not suffer them to fall into the hands of the *French*, believing that whole *England* should be in great danger of destruction, in case so many Sovereignities were joyned with that Crown: This matter should be wonderfully taken to heart: Witness *Philip de Comines*. And there is no doubt but the *English* people would liberally contribute to that undertaking, after their old custom, yea,

*Phil. de Comines chap. 1. l. 4. & 8. chap. of l. 3. of his memoirs.*

were it to carry an Army into *France*: as *King Edward* did, requiring *King Louis XI.* to render him the Kingdom of *France*, that was his own, that he might redress the State of the Religion and the Nobles, and restore to the people their old Liberties, and take off the great charge and vexation under which they groaned. I wonder very much, that the like design was

not formed two years ago, when the Inhabitants of *Ghienne* and *Bretagne* stretched out their arms to *England*, for to taste, under the conduct of the *Duke of York* or *Monmouth* the sweetness of an

*Eng-*

*English* Government, which they wish for unto this day.

Do the *English* want Motives to excite them hereunto? I beseech you, what shall, after such *French* Conquests, become of the *English* Commerce? is not that sufficiently ruined, or lamentably decayed already? The *Hamburgh-trade* is, upon the matter, quite lost, as to the *English* manufactures, which in times of peace were sold into *Germany*, *Pomerania*, and other adjacent Countreys: and so also is the *Dort-trade* lost, by which the *Spanish Netherlands*, and the parts of *Germany*, which ly that way, were wont to be supplied with *English* Cloath: by reason whereof those *English* Manufactures, as Cloath, Serges, Bayes, &c. which formerly gave 50. per piece, are now sold for 35. or 37. at the highest; which proves so great an evil to *England*, that those Cloathiers, which formerly employed 400 persons at work, have not now work for 20 persons; which hath caused the price of Wool to fall 40. per Cent cheaper than heretofore: and the people are forced to steal it out of *England*, and sell it to the *French*, who with the same make Serges and other Stuffs, to the damage and utter loss of the *English* trade: The complaints of this kind are every where heard; as also of that palpable cause of this decay in Commerce, from the taking, roving, plundering, confiscating of so many *English* ships by the *French* within a short time; the Value whereof with their Loadings is inestimable, and thereupon the provocations and grievances unsufferable.

But above all, the *English* ought to cast their eyes upon, and provide a remedy for the great strength and encrease of the *French* Ships, which trouble all Navigation at present; and what shall they do, when they shall come to dispose (*Deus avertat omen*, God forbid it) of the Navall Forces of *Holland*, and of their riches in the *Indies*? And more particularly is to be considered what shall become of the *English* Traffick in the *Mediterranean Sea*: There is no Merchant that know's not how absolutely necessary the *English* Trade is with *Spain*, as also with *Smyrna*, and all those parts to which we must pass through those *Mid-land Seas*: but how can

that be maintaind, if the *French* should make a Conquest of *Cicilia*, *Naples* and *Sardinia*? Let but inspection be made into their proceedings at *Messina*; where, besides what they have gained at Land, they have now at Sea 25. Gallies, and 50. great vessels, men of war, and a great number of others less, but very commodious for transport of Soldiers and provisions; they being absolute Masters and Dominators in those Seas: whereto gives no small advantage the Commodity of their Ports of *Marseilles* and *Toulon*, which are not far distant; from whence succours and provisions may be sent to refresh them in *Messina* in less than eight days time; and, by consequence, they may soon be Masters of those *Islands*, and afterwards of the Kingdom of *Napels*: for the Faction of *Anjou* (that is, of *France*) is not all extinguished there: and then can the *French*, when they will, ruin the navigation of the *Northern* Inhabitants, who have there neither Ports nor Gallies; which are two things very necessary in those Seas, because of the great Calms which in Summer time are often met with there. These Considerations, with many more, call aloud to the *English* Nation to awaken, and help themselves and us.

*For a Conclusion*: I propose two particular ways for the further engaging of *England* to come into our help:

*First*, that a true and firm Union may be cemented between *England* and *Holland*, the Expedient of the so much discoursed of Marriage between Our Prince of *Orange* and *Madam Maria*, daughter of the Duke of *York* ought to be endeavoured that it may speedily be effected: His Highness ought to sollicite it with ardour and passion: after the Example of *Charles the Stout*, Duke of *Bourgondy*, and Lord of the *Netherlands*, who married the Sister of King *Edward* of the House of *York*, for to fortifie himself against King *Louis XI.* (who had got advantage against him so much by surprizes and deceits in time of peace, like as our *Frenchmen* did in the year 1667.) for otherwise he would never have don it, for the great love he bore to the House of *Lancaster* whereof he was a near Relation by his Mothers side.

If

*Phil. de Co.  
mines Chap.  
XI. lib. 3. of  
his Memor.*

If therefore so great a Prince, that followed rather the incitements of his anger, than of reason, sacrificed the interest of his House to the publick welfare: what shall not Our Illustrious *Prince*, who is so wise and Politique, do to attain that design or end so necessarie for the saving of *the Netherlands*? unto the preservation whereof that of *England* is inseparably annexed. For in case the *French* should now become Masters of the *Spanish Netherlands*, will it not follow then that *Holland* and the other *United Provinces* shall be constrained at last to take upon them the same yoke? and suppose *the Hollanders* could maintain themselves with some assistance from *England* and *Germany*, yet would they not be always the continual Theater and seat of war; but rather at last submit themselves to the great and mighty *King of France*, in hopes to enjoy, without fear of any Enemy, a perfect tranquility and long continuing Rest. A present hearty Conjunction between *England* and *Us* therefore is the present needfull, to which the foresaid Marriage seems to be a proper medium: for the accomplishing whereof the blessing of the Almighty is earnestly implored, that he, who straitneth and enlargeth Kings, Kingdoms, and Commonwealths, that limits the Grandees of the Earth, putting a hook in their nostrils, that maketh wars to cease on the earth, and setteth up the oppressed and the lowly, will, if it may stand with his good pleasure, make this marriage of our great *Prince* with that Illustrious *Princess Mary* to become successfull for those righteous and happy ends: that not onely by this great knot the hearts of those two Grand personages may be more united; but also that the Two Nations may concur and conspire with more harmonie, courage, and activitie, to procure a good peace for the rest and tranquillitie of *Christendom*, and particularly of *England* and the *Netherlands*; a peace, I mean, not coloured over, nor plaistered, and such as the *French* (when *the Allies* shall be disarmed and separated) shall presently break, and so again surprize the *Netherlands*; who indeed ought to be always in posture of defence; and who (when the ballance shall be kept equall in *Europe*) ought



ought to serve for a bank and barr against the inundations and attempts of this unquiet and imperious Nation.

*Secondly*, As to a sure *Asylum*, under our Almighty Protector, We would address to the Renowned *Parliament of England*, now beginning their *Session*: Upon them are at present the eyes of all the Considerable and Considering Parties of *Europe*: Ill men are jealous and conceive fears concerning them; Good men hope for great advantages from their grave and wise Councils: The loud clamours of the innumerable injuries don by the *French* to the honest Subjects of *England* in their Commerce, more ways than one, to their inestimable damage, we know, have reached their ears: and the sad state of these Lands, with all the present evils and future dangers I have mention'd in *this Letter* cannot be unknown to them: the Sympathy of their affections with our miseries, and the identity of their Cause with Ours, will, we hope, effect so much, that Their Wisdoms will propose, vote, direct, order, and conclude of such ways and means whereby the sober Inhabitants, and particularly the Trading Party of *England*, may with Us be extricated out of this Labyrinth in which we are bewilder'd; that at last we may arrive at such a state of just freedom and safety, as may excite us, with them, to render to the God of wonders hearty praise and thanksgiving for his wonderfull deliverances and preservations: for which you have the concurrent Vote of

Sr,

*Yours &c.*